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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/51/610)]

51/63. Strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, particularly its technical cooperation capacity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in which it approved the statement of principles and programme of action annexed to that resolution,

Bearing in mind the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, specifically the reduction of criminality, more efficient and effective law enforcement and administration of justice, respect for human rights and promotion of the highest standards of fairness, humanity and professional conduct,

Convinced of the desirability of closer coordination and cooperation among States in combating crime, including drug-related crimes, such as terrorist crimes, illicit arms trade and money-laundering, and bearing in mind the role that could be played by both the United Nations and regional organizations in this respect,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase technical cooperation activities in order to assist countries, in particular developing countries and countries in transition, with their efforts in translating United Nations policy guidelines into practice,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, in which it requested the Secretary-General, as a matter of urgency, to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandate, in conformity with the high priority attached to the Programme,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/145 and 50/146 of 21 December 1995;[1]

2. Reaffirms the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the crucial role it has to play in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, in responding to the needs of the international community in the face of both national and transnational criminality and in assisting Member States in achieving the goals of preventing crime within and among States and improving the response to crime;

3. Also reaffirms the priority of the Programme, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, and the need for an appropriate share of the existing United Nations resources for the Programme;

4. Welcomes the upgrading of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat to a division, while noting the severe impact of the budgetary cuts on its capacity to deliver the services required by Member States;

5. Reaffirms its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure, in particular, the full implementation of section III, paragraphs 29 and 30, of that resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further the Programme by providing it with the resources necessary for the full implementation of its mandate, including follow-up action to the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime[2] and to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;[3]

7. Reaffirms the high priority attached to technical cooperation and advisory services in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and stresses the need to continue to improve the operational activities of the Programme, in particular in developing countries and countries in transition, in order to meet the needs of Member States, at their request, for support in crime prevention and criminal justice;

8. Calls upon States and United Nations funding agencies to make significant financial contributions for operational activities of the Programme, and encourages all States to make voluntary contributions for that purpose to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, also taking into account the activities required for the implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime;

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[1] A/51/327.

[2] See A/49/748, annex, sect. I. A.

[3] A/CONF.169/16.

9. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other international, regional and national funding agencies to support technical operational activities in this field and to include such activities in their programmes, utilizing the expertise of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in such activities and cooperating closely on relevant technical assistance projects and advisory missions;

10. Takes note with appreciation of the contributions of the Programme to United Nations peacekeeping and special missions, as well as its contributions to the follow-up to those missions, inter alia, through advisory services, and encourages the Secretary-General, as a way of strengthening the rule of law, to recommend the inclusion of the re-establishment and reform of criminal justice systems in peacekeeping operations;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular in the area of money-laundering;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to assist the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as the principal policy-making body in this field, in performing its activities, including cooperation and coordination with other relevant bodies, such as the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women;

13. Calls upon the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give effect to its relevant resolutions on strategic management of the Programme, in particular those concerning reporting requirements, submission of proposals and resource mobilization;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

82nd plenary meeting
12 December 1996